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# U.S. to Seek Support on Salvador Issue

By JUAN de ONIS

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 — The Reagan Administration will seek to rally support in Western Europe and Latin America next week against what it sees as Soviet support for leftist guerrillas in El Salvador, officials said today.

High-level diplomatic missions will be sent to various capitals with documentation assembled by American intelligence agencies that presents what officials here called a "convincing case" that the Soviet Union and its allies, including Vietnam, Ethiopia and Cuba, have been supplying tons of arms to El Salvador's left-wing guerrillas.

The officials said the allies would be asked to give political support to the United States policy of increasing military and economic aid to the military-backed Government of El Salvador and to resist the efforts of social democratic parties, Roman Catholic political activists and the Communists to isolate the Salvadoran Government because of human rights violations.

Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. was reported by aides to regard the response of European and Latin American governments to the United States call for support on El Salvador as a major test of the Western alliance's resolve in confronting Soviet-backed revolutionary movements in the third world.

## 11,000 People Reported Killed

More than 11,000 people have been reported killed during 14 months of political violence in El Salvador, a largely agricultural country of 4.5 million people on the west coast of Central America.

United States officials said the evidence assembled on arms deliveries to the guerrillas points to Nicaragua as a principal transit point. The arms have been dropped into El Salvador by small planes, delivered by boats at night and

carried by truck across Honduras to the Salvadoran border, they said.

William J. Dyess, the State Department's acting spokesman, said at a daily news briefing that he would "neither confirm nor deny" reports that the missions were being sent, but he repeated earlier statements that arms from the Soviet Union and Cuba had been entering El Salvador. He said the guerrillas were "organized from outside."

The United States has suspended economic aid to Nicaragua while the Administration decides how involved the country is in the arms smuggling to El Salvador. A determination by President Reagan that Nicaragua was giving such support would require a cutoff of all aid, including nearly \$60 million in economic and food credits planned for Nicaragua by the Carter Administration.

## To Visit 5 European Capitals

The mission to Western Europe is to visit Bonn, Paris, Brussels, the Hague and London under the leadership of Lawrence S. Eagleburger, once a senior aide to former Secretary of State Henry M. Kissinger and now Mr. Haig's choice for Assistant Secretary for European Affairs.

The missions to Latin America will be led by retired Lieut. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, who was deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency during the Nixon Administration.

Mr. Haig discussed the Salvadoran situation yesterday with Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo of Italy. Italy's Government, led by the Christian Democrats, has some sympathy for the Salvadoran Government of President José Napoleón Duarte, who is a Christian Democrat.

But most Western European nations are more supportive of the Salvadoran guerrillas, a combination of Marxist and social democratic armed factions, than of the military-backed Government, which

is seen as repressive because of the killing of political dissidents by security forces.

## Carter Backed Government

The Carter Administration tried unsuccessfully to rally backing in Western Europe and Mexico for its policy of supporting the Salvadoran Government after young officers took power in October 1979 and introduced some social changes, including distribution of land to peasants, and nationalized the private banking system.

The first reaction of the Reagan Administration to European support for the guerrillas came early this week when a protest was delivered by the State Department to Sweden's Ambassador, Count Wilhelm Wachtmeister, after two guerrilla leaders were received in Stockholm by Foreign Minister Ola Ullsten.

In a press statement, Mr. Ullsten said United States increases in military aid to the Salvadoran military, announced in January, would "not further the cause of peace," and he called on the Government and the opposition in El Salvador to begin negotiations.

The Salvadoran Government has offered to negotiate with opponents who will accept a cease-fire through the Roman Catholic Church. So far, the guerrillas have kept on fighting and have rejected any negotiations with Mr. Duarte.

## Guerrilla Offensive Falls

A major guerrilla offensive launched Jan. 10 failed in its goal of taking control of part of Salvadoran territory, which would have permitted the guerrillas to seek international recognition of a "state of belligerency" and openly request arms and supplies from abroad.

Mr. Ullsten said in the Swedish Parliament today that news reports of Soviet arms shipments to the guerrillas could not be "verified with the information on hand." He said Sweden condemned any entry of arms "that leads to increase in the armed violence."

In Latin America, Cuba and Nicaragua have openly declared support for the Salvadoran guerrillas, whose leaders have appeared in Havana with President Fidel Castro at public rallies.

Mexico's governing Revolutionary Institutional Party has close ties with the Salvadoran opposition parties that have joined a political front with the Marxist-led guerrillas. While not providing arms, Mexico has given the guerrilla groups permission to operate offices in Mexico City and has urged a "hands off" policy by outside parties.